



January 3, 2020

The Honorable Rob Portman
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman,

Thank you for your leadership on the *Eviction Crisis Act* which would provide critically important tools and resources for addressing current challenges to housing stability including rising rents and increasing eviction filings in Franklin County. We appreciate the proposed federal partnership and commitment to assisting local communities with more effective data collection, stronger research and analysis, and funding for eviction prevention services.

According to the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio, rents outpace the growth of income in Franklin County, and there are 54,000 Franklin County households living in poverty that pay more than 50 percent of their income on housing. A staggering 18,000 evictions are filed annually in our region, and as we continue to grow, we know these issues will only continue to worsen unless we intervene appropriately and effectively with good, comprehensive policy and an inclusive mindset.

That is why the Board of Commissioners approved a plan to invest \$65 million over the next ten years to create 2,000 new affordable units while maintaining a focus on keeping residents in their homes and maintaining affordability of current housing stock. Our work is intentionally aligned and inextricably linked with that of our local, state, business and nonprofit partners, as well as our federal partners and the approach you have proposed in the *Eviction Crisis Act*. We recognize that being able to maintain residents in affordable and safe housing is the key to any successful comprehensive housing strategy, and we appreciate your leadership on this.

No individual or family in the United States should go without a stable and reliable roof overhead, and we offer our sincere thanks and fierce support for your bill that will increase the quality of life for our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marilyn Brown".

Marilyn Brown
Board President, Franklin County Board of Commissioners

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